

Senate Bill 122

By: Senators Whitehead, Sr. of the 24th, Grant of the 25th and Cagle of the 49th

AS PASSED

AN ACT

To amend Part 1 of Article 2 of Chapter 8 of Title 12 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to general provisions relative to solid waste management, so as to change certain provisions relating to general provisions relative to solid waste management; to change certain provisions relating to declaration of policy and legislative intent; to change certain provisions relating to definitions; to change certain provisions relating to permits for solid waste or special solid waste handling, disposal, or thermal treatment technology facilities and inspection of solid waste generators; to change certain provisions relating to authorization for state grants; to change certain provisions relating to tire disposal restrictions; to change certain provisions relating to yard trimming disposal restrictions; to provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

Part 1 of Article 2 of Chapter 8 of Title 12 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to general provisions relative to solid waste management, is amended by striking subsection (a) of Code Section 12-8-21, relating to declaration of policy and legislative intent, and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

(a) It is declared to be the policy of the State of Georgia, in furtherance of its responsibility to protect the public health, safety, and well-being of its citizens and to protect and enhance the quality of its environment, to institute and maintain a comprehensive state-wide program for solid waste management and to prevent and abate litter, so as to assure that solid waste does not adversely affect the health, safety, and well-being of the public and that solid waste facilities, whether publicly or privately owned, do not degrade the quality of the environment by reason of their location, design, method of operation, or other means and which, to the extent feasible and practical, makes maximum utilization of the resources contained in solid waste.

SECTION 2.

Said part is further amended by striking subsection (c) of Code Section 12-8-21, relating to declaration of policy and legislative intent, and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

(c) It is the intent of the General Assembly that every effort be undertaken to reduce on a state-wide per capita basis the amount of municipal solid waste being received at disposal facilities.

SECTION 3.

Said part is further amended in Code Section 12-8-22, relating to definitions, by inserting a new paragraph to read as follows:

(5.1) 'Construction or demolition waste' means waste building materials and rubble resulting from construction, remodeling, repair, or demolition operations on pavements, houses, commercial buildings, and other structures. Such waste includes but is not limited to waste containing asbestos, wood, bricks, metal, concrete, wallboard, paper, cardboard, and other nonputrescible wastes associated with construction and demolition activities which have a low potential for ground-water contamination. Inert waste landfill materials approved by the board for disposal in landfills permitted by rule and regulation are also included in this definition if disposed in a construction or demolition waste landfill.

SECTION 4.

Said part is further amended by striking paragraph (12) of Code Section 12-8-22, relating to definitions, and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

(12) 'Hazardous constituent' means any substance listed as a hazardous constituent in regulations promulgated pursuant to the federal act by the administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency which are in force and effect on February 1, 2004, codified as Appendix VIII to 40 C.F.R. Part 261 — Identification and Listing of Hazardous Waste.

SECTION 5.

Said part is further amended in Code Section 12-8-22, relating to definitions, by inserting a new paragraph to read as follows:

(15.1) 'Litter' has the meaning provided by Code Section 16-7-42.

SECTION 6.

Said part is further amended by striking paragraph (18) of Code Section 12-8-22, relating to definitions, and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

(18) 'Municipal solid waste' means any solid waste derived from households, including garbage, trash, and sanitary waste in septic tanks and means solid waste from single-family and multifamily residences, hotels and motels, bunkhouses, campgrounds, picnic grounds, and day use recreation areas. The term includes yard trimmings, construction or demolition waste, and commercial solid waste but does not include solid waste from mining, agricultural, or silvicultural operations or industrial processes or operations.

SECTION 7.

Said part is further amended by striking paragraph (5) of subsection (e) of Code Section 12-8-24, relating to permits for solid waste or special solid waste handling, disposal, or thermal treatment technology facilities and inspection of solid waste generators, and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

(5) Modifications for vertical expansions issued under this Code section may be restricted in duration, but in no case shall be effective for municipal solid waste landfills not having liners and leachate collection systems, other than those landfills restricted to construction or demolition waste.

SECTION 8.

Said part is further amended by striking subsection (c) of Code Section 12-8-37.1, relating to authorization for state grants, and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

(c) The corpus of the solid waste trust fund established in Code Section 12-8-27.1 may be used to make grants and loans to cities and counties, any combination of cities and counties, authorities, state agencies, or the Georgia Recycling Market Development Council for the cleanup of solid waste disposal facilities, including those used for the disposal of scrap tires; for the development and implementation of solid waste enforcement programs for the prevention and abatement of illegal dumping of solid waste, including without limitation the prevention and abatement of litter; for the funding of grants or loans, in accordance with procedures developed by the division; for the implementation of innovative technologies for the recycling and reuse of solid waste, including without limitation scrap tires; and for educational and other efforts to promote waste reduction, recycling, and recycling market development.

SECTION 9.

Said part is further amended by striking paragraph (1) of subsection (c) of Code Section 12-8-40.1, relating to tire disposal restrictions, and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

(c)(1) No person shall collect or transport scrap tires for the purpose of processing or disposal, process scrap tires, or purport to be in the business of collecting, transporting, or processing scrap tires unless the person has a scrap tire carrier or processor permit issued by the division. For purposes of this paragraph, the term 'process scrap tires' means any method, system, or other treatment designed to change the physical form, size, or chemical content of scrap tires for beneficial use.

SECTION 10.

Said part is further amended by striking paragraph (3) of subsection (h) of Code Section 12-8-40.1, relating to tire disposal restrictions, and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

(3) The tire fees authorized in this subsection shall cease to be collected on June 30, 2008. The director shall make an annual report to the House Committee on Natural Resources and the Environment and the Senate Natural Resources and Environment Committee regarding the status of the activities funded by the solid waste trust fund.

SECTION 11.

Said part is further amended by striking subsection (k) of Code Section 12-8-40.1, relating to tire disposal restrictions, and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

(k) The director shall be authorized to order the cessation of operation of any scrap tire carrier or processor who is found not to be operating in compliance with this part or rules adopted pursuant to this part and the seizure of all property used in such unlawful operations; provided, however, that the scrap tire carrier or processor shall be afforded a hearing within 48 hours before an administrative law judge of the Department of Natural Resources upon such order of the director.

SECTION 12.

Said part is further amended by striking subsection (l) of Code Section 12-8-40.1, relating to tire disposal restrictions, and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

(l)(1) A surety bond shall be provided to the director by a scrap tire carrier or processor prior to issuance of a permit for collecting or processing scrap tires to ensure compliance with the provisions of this part.

(2) The bond required in this subsection shall be:

- (A) Conditioned upon compliance with this part, any rules adopted pursuant to this part, and the carrier's or processor's permit; and
- (B) In such amount as determined by the director necessary to ensure compliance, but in any event not to exceed \$25,000.00.
- (3) Such bond shall be payable to the director and issued by an insurance company authorized to issue such bonds in this state.
- (4) Upon a determination by the director that a scrap tire carrier or processor has failed to meet the provisions of this part, rules promulgated pursuant to this part, or its permit, the director may, after written notice of such failure:
 - (A) Forfeit or draw that amount of such bond that the director determines necessary to correct the violation;
 - (B) Expend such amount for such purposes; and
 - (C) Require the replacement of that amount of such bond forfeited or drawn upon.
- (5) Any moneys received by the director in accordance with paragraph (4) of this subsection shall be deposited into the solid waste trust fund established in Code Section 12-8-27.1.

SECTION 13.

Said part is further amended by striking subsection (a) of Code Section 12-8-40.2, relating to yard trimming disposal restrictions, and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

- (a) Each city, county, or solid waste management authority shall impose restrictions on yard trimmings which are generated in or may ultimately be disposed of in its area of jurisdiction. These restrictions shall include but are not limited to:
 - (1) A requirement that yard trimmings not be placed in or mixed with municipal solid waste, except at landfills restricted to construction or demolition waste;
 - (2) A ban on the disposal of yard trimmings at municipal solid waste disposal facilities having liners and leachate collection systems or requiring vertical expansion within its jurisdiction;
 - (3) A requirement that yard trimmings be sorted and stored for collection in such a manner as to facilitate collection, composting, or other handling; and
 - (4) A requirement that yard trimmings be sorted and stockpiled or chipped, composted, used as mulch, or otherwise beneficially reused or recycled to the maximum extent feasible.

SECTION 14.

This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law without such approval.

SECTION 15.

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.